



PAKISTAN OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROMOTERS ASSOCIATION

LICENSED BY: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY

13th NOV 2019 AT 12:00 PM POEPA HEAD OFFICE ISLAMABAD.

Respected Members,

1. The meeting Chaired by the Chairman, Mr. Sarfraz Zahoor Cheema was held in the Meeting Room of POEPA Head office, ISLAMABAD on Wednesday Nov 13TH 2019. Following officials and members had participated in the meeting:-

1. Mr. Sarfraz Zahoor Cheema (Chairman)
2. Mr. Athar Iqbal Shah (Senior Vice Chairman)
3. Mr. Asad Hafeez Kiani (Vice Chairman)
4. Mr. Naseem Akhtar Mehmood Ch (Member, E .C)
5. Mr. Muhammad Usman (Member, E .C)
6. Mr. Mikaeel Khan (Member, E .C)
7. Mr. Muhammad Feroz Khan (Member, E .C)
8. Mr. Qaiser Naeem Malik (Member, E .C)
9. Mr. Muhammad Riaz Khan (Member, E .C)
10. Mr. Raja Mehmood Ahmed (Member, E .C)

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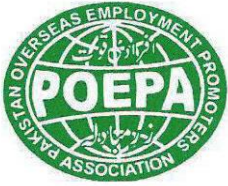
11. Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Khan Bilal (Member, E.C)
12. Mr. Khawaja Shahid Mehmood (Member, E.C)
13. Mr. Mubashir Rafiq Kiani (Member, E.C)
14. Mr. Muhammad Safdar (Member, E.C)
15. Mr. Shamshad Ahmed Bajwa (Member, E.C)
16. Mr. Gul Faraz Khan (Member, E .C)
17. Mr. M. Rafiq Janjua (Member, E .C)
18. Mr. Muhammad Idress Chaudhry (Member, E .C)
19. Mr. Shahbaz Zeb Khan Secretary General, POEPA

The meeting deliberated on the following agenda items:-

AGENDA NO.1	APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS OF PREVIOUS MONTHS OCT-2019
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The executive committee had thoroughly examine the expenses occurred in the preceding month of Oct 2019, after the discussion over all the head of accounts the committee had unanimously approved the accounts for the month of Oct-2019, Secretary General had highlighted the necessary expenditures required for office renovation & membership certificate books. The members have recommended accumulating estimates and quotations for the office renovation work and circulate it among the members for approval. Further the requirement of 4 Membership Certificates books @ Rs. 10,000/- for each book of 100 certificates from FPCCI has been approved, moreover the committee has given the approval for the furniture requirement of Chairs and tables for POEPA head office.

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Decision:

The executive committee has unanimously approved the expenses occurred in the preceding month OCT -2019 & upcoming necessary expenses in NOV-2019.

Agenda No.2	OEC charges levied on OEPs
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The Chairman Mr. Sarfraz Zahoor Cheema, had briefed the members of the committee that the case of Rs. 200 imposed on OEPs by the Federal Government through an S.R.O with an insertion of sub rule 4(a) in the Emigration Rules, 1979 was discussed with few legal experts/lawyers, some of them given us a hope that it can contested through a lawsuit & we can acquire a relief from the court of law. Moreover we had received many opinions by our community that we must hire a law firm for filing a lawsuit for this particular case. He further added my opinion is that we must file a law suit to sort out this matter and contend the unfair imposition on the poor migrant worker. Further the Chairman had questioned the opinions of the executive committee members and asked them to give their verdict & what would be the strategy to counter this particular issue.

Mr. Raja Mehmood said that as per my knowledge & experience if the association or OEPs file the lawsuit against these charges, the court will not provide the reliefs as the OEPs are not the aggravated party; the lawsuit from the migrant worker would be effective. He further said that it can be consulted with the law firm/legal experts that what can be the possible outcomes of filing this litigation, whether the court would determine the liability of this incident.

Mr. Athar Iqbal Shah said that OEPs are strongly intensified & aggravated party because they are forced to collect these charges for OEC from the poor migrant workers; he further added that in the meeting with Federal secretary we had pledged to revoked the license of OEC if it is not financially viable, why the OEPs or poor



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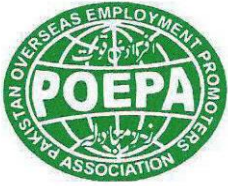
migrant worker are forced to collect funds for the sustenance of a financially trembling institution. He recommends fighting this matter of contention with a lawsuit without any further delay.

Mr. Capt Naseem Akhter Mehmood Ch. said that we can take the authority letter & undertakings from the poor migrant workers for filing the lawsuit against these unfair levying of OEC charges, as the poor intending emigrant is already under a huge financial burden through various federal & provincial taxes, and this injustice with the poor layman must be contended through the court of law on priority basis.

All the other executive committee members seconded the opinion of the Chairman, Mr. Sarfraz Zahoor Cheema, S.V.C Mr. Athar Iqbal & senior member of executive committee Mr. Capt . Naseem Ch. for filing a lawsuit by hiring law firm/legal experts without any further delay to contend the unfair collection of OEC charges from the poor intending emigrant.

DECISION:

Hence it has been unanimously resolved to file a writ petition by hiring the services of a experienced law firm against Notification of Ministry for insertion of sub-rule 4-A in the Rule 23 of the Emigration Rules, 1979 in the court of law without any further delay. Mr, Sarfraz Zahoor Cheema, Chairman POEPA is authorized to engage counsel, sign pleadings, application, affidavits, replies, give statement sign vakalatnama and file writ petition/appeal and do whatever is required to be done to safeguard the interest of POEPA.



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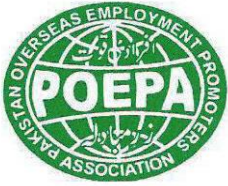
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Agenda No.3	ENHANCEMENT IN OEP SERVICE CHARGES & FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON AMENDMENTS IN EMIGRATION RULES.
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The Chairman had briefed the members that POEPA had already sent a draft of the proposed amendments on July 9th 2019, in the tenure of Mr. Ikram-Ul-Haq Qureshi, he further added that in meeting with Federal Secretary we had demanded the copy of draft of the proposed amendments finalized by Bureau of Emigration, we had observed that the Bureau had opined to increase the service charges up to 12,000 mentioned in the draft of amendments provided by the Bureau, moreover the renewal fee is mentioned to be increased to "Fifty thousand Rupees" such proposals are not supported by the OEP community we strongly condemn them, these points must be re-defined as per the commitment of Bureau with POEPA, which was that the service charges has been proposed to increase from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 20,000/- and the license renewal fee will increase from Rs. 15,000/- to R.s. 20,000/- per annum. Moreover many other points are required to be reviewed under the consultation with POEPA. For this purpose we will arrange a meeting with DG Bureau & after consultation session with POEPA such proposals which are not supported by the OEP community must be redefined.

Mr. Feroz Khan had highlighted the fact that in Multan most of the people are charging processing less than the cost occurred, if we propose to increase the service charges to Rsa.20,000/- how it would be possible to get business of processing in the market, some of the agents are charging less than the cost , so it would become very difficult for us to survive this intense competition in the market.

Members of the executive committee have shown disagreement with the points rose by **Mr. Feroz Khan**, they said that with the increment of service charges, it would become very difficult for these agents to survive or to cater their business, moreover these



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agent & competition in the market cannot be countered they would not stop it any cost then why we would be distressed by them and drop/miss our legal right of increment in the service charges.

Mr. Capt Naseem Ch. had mentioned that all corporate members are paying more than 33% of taxes under various heads, the increment in the service charges will ultimately increase the white money and will discourage the unfair means in the marketplace. He said that we strongly recommend the increment in the service charges up to Rs. 20,000/-.

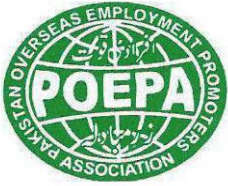
Mr. Muhammad Usman had mentioned that the OEPs will always face the unfair competition in the market, it cannot be countered or decreased, but the OEPs are not supposed to get distressed of this competition and get deprived of the opportunity. After the decades we have been provided with the chance of increment in the service charges so we must not lose this opportunity and resiliently support the increment in the service charges. He further said that we are confident enough that after this increment in the services charges, surely the uniform rates for processing will prevail in the market & it would become very difficult for the agents to process the cases less than the cost.

DECISION:

Hence it was decided & resolved to arrange a meeting & consultation session with DG-Bureau to re-draft the proposed amendments in the Emigration Rules 1979.

Agenda No.4	DISCUSSION ON AWAITING ISSUES OF SAUDI CONSULATE ISLAMABAD & KARACHI
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The Chairman had informed the member of E.C that we are developing many resources to conduct a meeting with the Ambassador to sort out the impending matters



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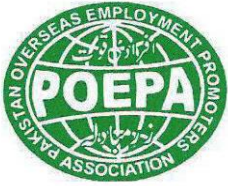
related Saudi Embassy Islamabad, and we had already corresponded with our ministry to intervene in this matter specially the burning issue of the new licenses registrations in Saudi Embassy Islamabad. We hope that with the intervention of Federal Minister & Foreign Minister as well we can accomplish our goal of acquiring registration of new licenses in Saudi Embassy Islamabad.

Mr. Muhammad Safdar had emphasized that an immense problem faced by the OEPs & migrant workers is the requirement of Driving Licenses, Medicals, Biometric Fingerprints in Pakistan, which are not even recognized in the host country Saudi Arabia, the Pakistani driving license has no value in Saudi Arabia, so why the intending emigrant is forced to acquire this license. Moreover he mentioned that majority of the manpower promotion business is transmitted to Karachi Consulate, because the Visa endorsement rate herein Saudi Embassy Islamabad is quite low and the degree of objections/rejections is very high. People are not willing to generate their Wakalas for Islamabad embassy; they are forced to generate Wakalas for Saudi Consulate Karachi. He further requested the entire community of OEPs to please use all their resources & make appeal/plea to the Embassy for the firm settlements of such burning issues.

Mr. Muhammad Usman had mentioned that there are no problems been observed in Karachi Consulate, all the concerned operations are functioning smoothly, he said that my staff is voluntarily preparing files without charging a single penny, all files are submitted which were submitted in the Karachi consulate were granted registration & provided with user name & passwords within 15 days after submission.

Mr. Raja Mubashir Rafiq Kiani The process of visa cancellation is quite complicated in the Embassy, they endorse the cancellation but when it is checked in the computer system, it shows the same status. Moreover the degree of unjustified objections is very high; we need to sort out these impending issues with prompt initiatives.

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DECISION:

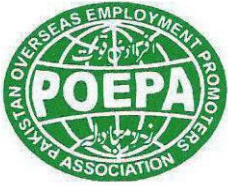
Henceforth it was decided & resolved to request the Federal Minister & Foreign Minister to intervene & sort out this matter concerned with Saudi Embassy Islamabad for the welfare/safety of the poor migrant worker/intending emigrant and the distraught manpower promotion sector of Pakistan.

Agenda No.5	CHANGE OF POEPA AUDITOR.
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Secretary General had briefed the E.C members that the previous Auditor of POEPA had resigned from his services, therefore the new auditor i.e. **Tahir & Co.** has been appointed as the auditor of POEPA.

DECISION:

All the members of the E.C. had unanimously approved the appointment of the abovementioned Auditor for POEPA.



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Agenda No.6	MATTER OF HANDING OVER ALL POEPA OFFICES
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Chairman has mentioned that involving D.G Bureau in our association insignificant matters will reveal our weakness and dispute among the community same was seconded by **Mr. Athar Iqbal Shah**, he emphasized that these issues can be handle definitely by the legal actions against the illegal possession of associations rightful properties.

Mr. Raja Mehmood added that without a stern legal pursuance, we cannot obtain the possession of association owned properties, he proposes to gain the possession of all the POEPA owned properties by hook or crook without any hesitation through filing complaints & FIR against illegal possession.

Mr. Muhammad Usman has mentioned that we have the certified copies of all the documents of POEPA south zone office, previous E.C. had written the letters and serve notices to the members of United group south zone to hand over the office to former executive committee members of Karachi but they had refused. We held a meeting with them in order to sort out this matter amicably but it ends up with a regret and disagreement. He further said that we can definitely gain the possession through a FIR against them.

The Chairman said that kindly provide me a time of only two to three weeks to sort out the possession of south zone office through negotiations if they refused to do so, we will allow the necessary legal action to be initiated against them.



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DECISION:

It has been resolved to comprise committees to probe, pursue, vacate & eradicate, the illegal possession over the association owned offices in north zone & south zone.

COMMITTEE COMPRISED TO REMOVE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ASSOCIATION OWNED OFFICE IN SOUTH ZONE

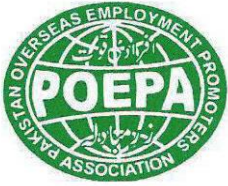
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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Muhammad Usman | Head of Committee. |
| 2. Mr. Ghulam Shabbir Badani | (Member, Executive Committee) |
| 3. Mr. Shahid Ahmed Khan Laghari | (Member, Executive Committee) |
| 4. Mr. Raja Mehmood | (Member, Executive Committee) |
| 5. Mr. Syed Muhamamad Javed Zaidi | (Member, POEPA) |

COMMITTEE COMPRISED TO REMOVE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ASSOCIATION OWNED OFFICES IN NORTH ZONE & HAND IT OVER TO POEPA

The executive committee has formed a committee for gaining possession of the North Zone offices which will be headed by **Mr. Athar Iqbal Shah**. This committee will furnish a report and gain the possession of the north zone office through negotiations or initiating legal actions against the forcible dispossession of the rightful owner.

Members of the Committee for POEPA office (North Zone)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Athar Iqbal Shah | (Head of the Committee) |
| 2. Mr. Mikaeel Khan Bangash | |
| 3. Mr. Asad Hafeez Kiani | |
| 4. Mr. Gul Faraz Khan | |



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Agenda No.6	PRA SALES TAX MATTER
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The Chairman, had updated the members that POEPA is in constant correspondence with the Finance Ministry Punjab & PRA, due to the eventful schedule of the Finance Minister Punjab we are unable to held a meeting with him in the past weeks, nevertheless in the upcoming days we are confident enough that we will hold an exclusive meeting for PRA & Professional Tax Punjab, he further mention that Mr. Muhammad Usman is playing a dynamic role in arranging this meeting.

Mr. Muhammad Usman informed the members about his telephonic conversation with the Finance Minister & his P.S., he told the members in the latter weeks, the Finance Minister (Punjab) was relatively busy with a foreign delegation, moreover he was not well aware of our situation for that purpose he had asked the Finance Secretary (**Punjab**) for a briefing & report on the PRA & Professional Tax after studying our case in detail, he had promised to provide us time for the meeting in the forthcoming week.

DECISION:

The executive committee has unanimously resolved for a meeting with Finance minister, in case the OEPs are not provided with the relief of reduction in sales tax by the Ministry of Finance Punjab then the association needs to file a writ petition by hiring the services of an experienced law firm for reduction or exemption in PRA sales tax.

Agenda No.6	POEPA BYE LAWS TO CONTROL BASELESS ALLEGATIONS AND DISORDERLINESS AMONG THE OEP COMMUNITY
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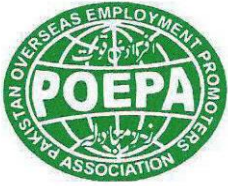
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The Chairman had identified that we had received many complaints via phone calls and messages, that many OEPs are practicing foul & abusive language over the social platforms & raising baseless, unsupported & false allegations over the respected individuals among the community to insult & defame them. He further mentioned these practices will spoil & interpret an immoral image of OEPs in the marketplace, this needs to be stopped with prompt actions & through finding a legal option i.e. by formulating association bye laws to secure the dignity of our community. The Chairman had asked for the opinions of the members on it.

Mr. Gul Faraz Khan had supported this initiative and suggested if the association receive the complaint for the offense, a show notice must be served to the offender and if he fails to defend or proof the allegations, a legal action must be taken against him that could be the cancellation of their membership.

Mr. Muhammad Usman had seconded the suggestions of *Mr. Gul Faraz Khan*, he further added that accuser or the litigant must be provided a chance of hearing against executive committee to explain and defend his allegations, if he fails to do so then he must be punished through the confined bye laws of the association. He further said we must consult a law firm to articulate the bye laws of our association to counter such activities/events.



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Mr. Athar Shah also backed the suggestions of the Chairman, Mr. Usman & Mr. Gul Faraz Khan and said that the accuser must be bound to provide the sufficient proofs & evidences against his accusations otherwise he is liable to be punished within the provisions of law. He further said it is essential to articulate the bye laws of our association to secure the fundamental rights of a respected individual of this community.

DECISION:

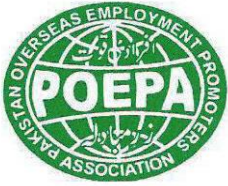
Henceforward all the members of the Executive Committee except *Mr. Raja Mehmood Ahmed* had unanimously supported & resolved for the formation of bye laws and strict legal actions against the raising groundless contentions, use of abusive language, defamation, unsupported & baseless allegations over the OEPs on the social platforms, such as What's app , Facebook, etc.

Agenda No.9	OWNERSHIP TRANSFER HEAD OFFICE TO POEPA
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DECISION:

The Executive Committee had unanimously decided to consult the legal advisor for transfer of Islamabad office ownership to POEPA through the Chairman on the priority basis.

Agenda	UPDATES REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW
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No.10	PROTECTORATE OFFICES IN THE REGION OF SIALKOT & DERA GHAZI KHAN.
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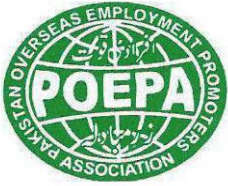
The Chairman informed the members that in the meeting with the Federal Secretary, the DG Bureau had briefed about status of the protectorate offices, he said that Sialkot protectorate office is in the finance ministry for approval and he promised that the Bureau will induct the Sialkot Protectorate office establishing in Jan-2020 subsequently the D.G Khan office before the month of April-20. He also told us that the protectorate office Abbottabad & Sukkur are also in the pipeline.

DECISION:

The Chairman then communicated that POEPA will exercise complete follow up of this matter with frequent reminders and correspondence after every 15 days. It was unanimously decided to pursue the matter of protectorate offices in writing after every 15 working days.

Agenda No.11	PROGRESS REPORT FOR POEPA LICENSE RENEWAL
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The Secretary General briefed the E.C. members that POEPA had previously submitted the complete documents with the Original License in July -2019, and after acquiring the condone of the delay from the Federal Government a cover letter for served to DGTO



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office the continue the necessary procedure of license renewal. He further added that DGTO will send in the letter for discrepancies or intimation of License renewal in the forthcoming week.

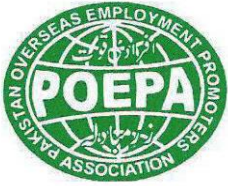
DECISION:

It has been decided that the Secretary General will handle the entire matters regarding renewal of association license, for this purpose the he will keep the complete updates of the proceedings.

Agenda No.11	POEPA HEAD OFFICE RENOVATION WORK APPROVAL
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The Executive Committee had resolved to collect 3-4 quotations from the market for the office renovation work, creation of new file racks and circulate the quotations among the executive committee members for approval; furthermore it has been approved to buy 12 executive chairs & a medium size center table for the meeting room.

DECISION; It has been decided that Secretary General will collect at least 3 quotations from the market for office wall paneling, wardrobes, kitchen cabinets & file rack works & will circulate among the members for the approval.



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Agenda No.12	OPF FUNDS BENEFITS AWARENESS TO THE MIGRANT WORKER
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Mr. Capt Naseem Akhter Mehmood Chaudhary emphasized that the leaflets, brochures and guide booklets about the benefits/remunerations against the OPF welfare fund must be provided to the intending emigrant/migrant worker at the time of registration and also delivered by courier to their residential addresses. Moreover an awareness campaigns must be launched by the OPF and Government to give awareness/obligatory information to the poor intending emigrant for claim/privileges against OPF welfare fund.

There was no further point to discuss. The meeting was adjourned with the greetings from/to the Chair.

.....X.....X.....

CC:

- 1. Regulator TOs, Directorate General of Trade Organization.**
- 2. All members of Executive Committee.**



(Shahbaz Zeb Khan)
Secretary General.